

Testimony of Wilson Ramos before the Labor & Employees Committee in support of Raised HB 5237

“An Act Concerning Fair Chance Employment” March 3, 2016 – 4:00 PM at Hill Regional Career High School.

Senator Gomes and Representative Tercyak and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, my name is Wilson Ramos. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony today in support of Raised HB 5237 “An Act Concerning Fair Chance Employment.”

On February 26, 2016, I attended the public hearing where Senator Ed Gomes (D-Bridgeport) stood on the podium and shared a story about how a 17-year-old teenager went from a difficult situation to advocating on behalf of our communities as an individual and as a Senator. I myself have a similar story to share, as I too have a criminal record that follows me around like the plague. I strongly believe that this is a first step to reducing barriers so that individuals with criminal records are given an opportunity to prove that there is more to the person than any past transgression.

I support this bill because I am one of many that committed mistakes that were primary due to negative influences, lack of role models, and not having the support that one needs to pursue great opportunities, to name a few. Like many others, I have met the requirements that the state has deemed fitting to the crime committed but still have a difficult time to secure employment in the field that I pursue. To further distinguish myself, here is a summary of myself; I am Latino, graduated from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) with a Bachelor’s Degree in Management with a concentration in Human Resources, I am currently pursuing a Master’s Degree in Technology Management with a concentration in Computer Networking and an official Certificate in Lean Manufacturing and Six sigma (as a dual tract program at CCSU). I have completed 5 courses in Information Technology (IT); Networking, Security, Server Administration, Office 365 and I am certified in Adult First Aid/CPR/AED. I am a member of a Human Resources Association and volunteer at the Alzheimer’s Association and other places. This is all listed in my resume, what is not listed in my resume is who I am as a person; I am a

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father, a brother, a friend, more importantly I am a person that values others not by their past transgressions but by who they are. I not only speak for myself but for all those that are not here today, I urge you to consider passing this bill, so that people get a second chance to prove their worth based on the skills, knowledge, abilities, and other defining characteristics they possess or will possess.

I am a firm believer that a simple quote has the potential to influence and change many things and with that being said, I want to end with this quote by Christopher Earle, **“It is when we fall that we are given the opportunity to rise up and reach new heights.”**

Thank you for your time and opportunity to share my story,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilson Ramos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wilson Ramos